

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:EOJONES:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH

NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

NEA/IRN - MR. NAAS

----- 012955

O 291739Z OCT 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

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AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - OCTOBER 28

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
OCTOBER 28, 1976:

Q. ON THE QUESTION OF IRAN --

Q. CAN WE CONTINUE ON THIS SUBJECT PLEASE?

Q. RIGHT?

Q. WE TALKED AT SOME LENGTH THE OTHER DAY ABOUT THE
SUBPOENAS AND THE RIGHT OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AND CAME
AWAY WITHOUT ANY ANSWERS AT ALL. HAVE YOU GOTTEN ANYTHING
FURTHER? WOULD DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY PROHIBIT THE USE OF
SUBPOENAS? HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT GIVEN ANY READING OF
THAT TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT?

A. THE QUESTION WAS: WHAT WAS OUR VIEW ON THIS SUBJECT.
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AND BECAUSE IT IS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT INVESTI-
GATION, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE AN ANSWER AT THIS TIME--
BECAUSE IT BEARS DIRECTLY ON THE INVESTIGATION.

Q. HAS THIS ISSUE PROMPTED THE DEPARTMENT TO THINK
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF OTHER EMBASSIES ENGAGED IN
SIMILAR ACTIVITIES AND TO PROMPT YOU TO CHECK ON THAT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THAT IT HAS CAUSED ANY SPECIFIC ACTIVI-
TY. I THINK THAT WE PROBABLY KEEP TRACK OF WHAT IS
GOING ON PRETTY CLOSELY AND WE ARE RESPONSIVE WHEN
INFORMATION COMES TO OUR ATTENTION AND ASK THE JUSTICE

DEPARTMENT TO FOLLOW IT UP. OR IF IT IS NOT AN ILLEGAL ACTIVITY BUT AN IMPROPER ONE, THAT WE WOULD MAKE INQUIRIES AND THEN SPEAK TO THE GOVERNMENT, AS APPROPRIATE.

Q. WELL SPECIFICALLY, ARE YOU AWARE OF WHETHER OR NOT IT IS ILLEGAL OR IMPROPER FOR A BROKER TO BE INVOLVED PRIVATELY--OTHER THAN IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK INTO THAT.

Q. CAN I GO BACK TO THIS KOREAN THING?

A. KOREAN? SURELY.

Q. DO I UNDERSTAND YOUR ANSWER TO BE THAT AT THE MOMENT THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS OF NO OTHER EMBASSY THAT MIGHT BE ENGAGED IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES?

A. WELL NO, THAT IS NOT --

Q. IS THAT SOMETHING YOU COULD CHECK ON?

A. NO, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN ASKED, FOR EXAMPLE, ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF IRANIAN INTELLIGENCE --

Q. YES.

A. AND AS THE SECRETARY INDICATED YESTERDAY, WE ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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MAKING INQUIRIES ABOUT THESE REPORTS, AND IF THEY ARE PROVED TRUE, WE WILL ASK THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT TO STOP IT.

Q. BUT THIS IS SOMETHING -- IN BOTH CASES THEY ARE ISSUES THAT CAME TO LIGHT AFTER NEWSPAPERS -- OR TELEVISION IN ONE CASE -- TALKED ABOUT IT, OR RAISED IT AS AN ISSUE. IS THERE ANYTHING SIMILAR THAT YOU ARE INVESTIGATING ON YOUR OWN?

A. THAT IS FREQUENTLY THE KIND OF SUBJECT THAT IS NOT DISCUSSED OR DISCLOSED PUBLICLY. BUT LET ME CHECK INTO IT.

Q. CAN WE GO BACK TO A NEW SUBJECT, OR AN OLD SUBJECT WHICH I AM BRINGING UP AGAIN -- AND THAT IS THE U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE PLO. I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE PUT OUT A PAPER OF ABOUT 350 WORDS AND POSTED IT ON THE BULLETIN BOARD ON OCTOBER 22ND, DEALING WITH THE QUESTION I HAD RAISED ABOUT THE FUND RAISING. IS THAT PART OF THE

RECORD, BY THE WAY, IN THE DAILY TRANSCRIPT?

A. YES.

Q. THIS STATEMENT OF 350 WORDS, OR WHATEVER IT IS?

A. YES. WE ARE INCLUDING--AND THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA, WHOSEEVER IT WAS IN THIS ROOM--TO PUT THE POSTED ANSWERS WITH THE TRANSCRIPT OF THE BRIEFING IN WHICH THE QUESTION WAS RAISED.

Q. WELL TO COMPLETE YOUR THOUGHT, I THINK WE OWE IT, A LOT OF THE CREDIT FOR POSTING IT--GETTING IT INTO THE RECORD--TO HANK TREWHITT, I THINK THAT IS RIGHT. BUT IN ANY CASE, IT SAYS IN THIS STATEMENT THAT THE PLO OBSERVER WILL NOT ENGAGE IN ANY FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES. IS THIS AN ADMISSION THAT HE HAD ENGAGED IN FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES? WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS WHOLE MATTER THAT WAS BROUGHT UP IN THE ANDERSON COLUMN?

A. MY RECOLLECTION WAS THAT THERE WAS AN ALLEGATION
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OR THERE WAS A QUESTION AT LEAST, RAISED IF THE PLO HAD IN FACT ENGAGED -- THE PLO OBSERVER MISSION -- WAS INVOLVED IN FUNDRAISING. AND I AM TOLD THAT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT THE MISSION ITSELF--ITS DIRECTOR, MR. TERZI,--HAD ENGAGED IN ANY FUNDRAISING. BUT THAT HE HAD RECEIVED SOME MONEY FROM SOME SYMPATHIZERS, OR FRIENDS, IN VIRGINIA. IN ANY CASE, WE HAVE--AS THE STATEMENT INDICATES--AS A RESULT OF THE MATTER BEING RAISED AND BEING BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION, BOTH THROUGH THE U.N. SECRETARIAT AND DIRECTLY WITH MR. TERZI, HAVE HAD A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING WITH HIM THAT THIS IS NOT A PROPER FUNCTION OF THE PLO OBSERVER MISSION AND IT WOULD NOT BE ENGAGED IN. BUT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT IN FACT HE HAS EVER SOLICITED FUNDS.

Q. YOU HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT HE HAS, IN FACT, EVER SOLICITED FUNDS.

A. RIGHT.

Q. NOW, THE CHARGE IS THAT THERE WAS A CHECK FOR DOLS 4,084.00 GIVEN TO TERZI, ACCORDING TO THIS REPORT. DID ANYBODY EVER, FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR ANY PART OF THE GOVERNMENT, CHECK WITH THE WRITERS, ANDERSON AND WHITTEN TO SEE WHETHER OR NOT THIS WAS ACCURATE, OR WHETHER SUCH SUM HAD BEEN TURNED OVER?

A. I THINK WHAT MR. ANDERSON STATED, -- IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT IT IS CORRECT -- THAT SUCH A CHECK WAS SENT TO THE PLO OBSERVER MISSION. THE ISSUE WAS WHETHER IT HAD BEEN SOLICITED OR NOT.

Q. THE ISSUE WAS WHETHER IT WAS SOLICITED.

A. YES.

Q. AND ACCORDING TO TERZI, HE DID NOT SOLICIT ANY FUNDS, ACCORDING TO WHAT YOU ARE BEING TOLD.
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A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. I HAVE ANOTHER QUESTION, YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULD TAKE, OR THE STATE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE OBLIGED TO TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES IF SUCH THINGS HAPPENED. WHAT WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE MEASURE?

A. LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FUTURE. WE HAVE HIS ASSURANCE THAT HE IS NOT GOING TO ENGAGE IN THIS ACTIVITY. HE UNDERSTANDS THE ROLE OF THE OBSERVER MISSION. SO I PREFER NOT TO TRY TO DEFINE WHAT STEPS WE WILL TAKE.

Q. OKAY. NOW WE RUN INTO ANOTHER QUESTION HERE, AND THAT IS: THE UNDERSTANDING THAT WE HAD, OR I HAD, IS THAT THE ONLY CONTACT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD WITH THE PLO WAS IN BEIRUT AS A SECURITY MEASURE TO PROTECT THE THREE OFFICERS THAT WE HAVE REMAINING IN THE EMBASSY. NOW IT APPEARS THAT WE DO CONTACT THE PLO IN NEW YORK.

A. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, I THINK YOUR RECOLLECTION IS JUST NOT ACCURATE. WE HAVE SAID IN THE PAST THAT WE HAVE AN ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USUN AND THE PLO MISSION. AND WE THINK THIS IS A NECESSARY PART OF OUR

RESPONSIBILITIES. AND WE THOUGHT IT APPLIED IN THIS INSTANCE, AS THE HOST GOVERNMENT TO THE UN.

Q. ALSO, THE PLO, ACCORDING TO YOUR OWN STATEMENT, HAS BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AS A FOREIGN AGENT FOR ELEVEN YEARS.

A. THAT IS THE PLO INFORMATION OFFICE.

Q. WELL, IT IS STILL THE PLO, THOUGH, IS IT NOT?

A. THERE IS A PLO OBSERVER MISSION WHICH WAS RECOGNIZED

BY THE UN, BUT BEFORE THAT THERE WAS A PLO INFORMATION
OFFICE WHICH WAS REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH OUR LAWS.
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Q. YES, BUT IT IS PLO, SO WE HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH THE
PLO FOR ELEVEN YEARS.

A. I DO NOT KNOW THAT WE HAD ANY CONTACT WITH THEM. THAT
DOES NOT NECESSARILY FOLLOW.

Q. WELL, IF THEY ARE REGISTERED, THERE MUST BE SOME
CONTACT.

A. YOU MEAN THEIR REGISTRATION WITH THE JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT?

Q. YES. AND SINCE THEN. THEY HAVEN'T BEEN IDLE, HAVE
THEY? AND WE ARE KEEPING A CLOSE TAB ON EVERYTHING,
INCLUDING ALL THE EMBASSIES IN WASHINGTON. YOU JUST SAID
THAT.

A. BUT OUR POLICY IS THAT WE HAVE NO SUBSTANTIVE CONTACT
OR NO CONTACT THAT WOULD IMPLY RECOGNITION OF THE
PLO. THERE IS A RHODESIAN INFORMATION OFFICE, FOR
EXAMPLE, WHICH IS REGISTERED UNDER THE SAME LAW, AND HAS
BEEN. AND CERTAINLY THE FACT THAT THAT OFFICE IS
REGISTERED IN THIS COUNTRY IMPLIES NO RECOGNITION BY THE
UNITED STATES OF THE SMITH REGIME.

Q. WELL, NOBODY HAS SAID THAT THE RHODESIAN REGIME IS
A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION WHICH THE PLO IS, WHICH IS
DIFFERENT. DO WE STILL RECOGNIZE THE PLO AS A TERRORIST
ORGANIZATION?

A. YOU KNOW, THE PLO IS A LARGE ORGANIZATION. WE HAVE
GONE ON RECORD AS TO WHAT OUR POSITION IS ON THE PLO.

I DON'T FIND THIS TRAIN OF QUESTIONING VERY HELPFUL.

Q. OKAY. WOULD YOU SAY, THEN, FROM WHAT THE STATE
DEPARTMENT SAID IN ITS STATEMENT OF OCTOBER 22ND, PLUS
WHAT YOU SAID TODAY, PLUS WHAT HAS BEEN SAID IN THE PAST,
THAT THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZES THE PLO IN A DE FACTO
FASHION IF NOT DE JURE?
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A. NEITHER CASE, WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE IT--NEITHER DE JURE
NOR DE FACTO.

Q. IRAN?

A. MARILYN.

Q. THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY THAT SOME INQUIRIES ABOUT SAVAK PRESENCE IN THE WASHINGTON EMBASSY WOULD BE MADE OR CHARGES--NOW WHAT FORM IS THAT GOING TO TAKE? WHO IS GOING TO MAKE THOSE INQUIRIES, AND HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND OUT WHETHER THEY HAVE BEEN MADE AND WHEN THEY ARE OVER?

A. THE INQUIRIES HAVE BEEN MADE.

Q. WHO MADE THEM?

A. BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHO?

A. I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR INQUIRIES, BUT INQUIRIES ARE BEING MADE TO DETERMINE--

Q. HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING?

A. THE INQUIRY, AS THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY, HAS BEEN MADE.

Q. IT HAS BEEN. THEN, IS IT OVER?

A. NO. THE INQUIRY HAS BEEN MADE, BUT THE ASSESSMENT OF THE INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN CONCLUDED.

Q. WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE INQUIRY? WHAT DID YOU ASK? I PRESUME AN INQUIRY MEANS THAT YOU ASK THEM.

A. TO DETERMINE WHETHER OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE IRANIAN EMBASSY ARE CONDUCTING THEMSELVES IN A WAY THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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IS INCONSISTENT WITH THEIR DIPLOMATIC STANDING.

Q. IS IT ILLEGAL OR IMMORAL OR FATTENING FOR SAVAK AGENTS TO WATCH OVER THE ACTIVITIES OF STUDENTS OR OTHER OPPONENTS OF THE SHAH'S REGIME?

A. THAT IS WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID, IN EFFECT, YESTERDAY.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY WATCH "60 MINUTES," OR IS ANYBODY IN THE DEPARTMENT AWARE OF THAT TELEVISION SHOW?

A. THAT IS WHAT PROMPTED THE QUESTION.

Q. I KNOW.

Q. YOU SAY THAT IT IS ROUTINE TO KEEP TRACK CLOSELY ON THE ACTIVITIES OF DIPLOMATS HERE. I DON'T MEAN FOLLOW THEM AROUND, BUT YOU GENERALLY TRY AND CHECK TO SEE IF THEY ARE BEHAVING AS DIPLOMATS.

NOW, THE SHAH OF IRAN HAS MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT WHICH HAS RESULTED IN AN INQUIRY. DOES THIS MAKE ANYBODY THINK THAT PERHAPS YOUR KEEPING CLOSE TRACKS ON THEM ISN'T SUFFICIENT?

A. ON BACKGROUND, YOU KNOW, WE ARE AN OPEN SOCIETY. WE ARE NOT A POLICE STATE. WE ARE NOT KEEPING ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE IN THIS COUNTRY UNDER SURVEILLANCE. WE DO NOT PRETEND TO. WE DO NOT HAVE THE CAPABILITIES TO DO SO EVEN IF WE DID WISH TO. SO, WE TRY TO DISCHARGE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY AND APPROPRIATE TO THE PROBLEM.

Q. CAN WE HAVE THAT BIT ABOUT THE POLICE STATE ON THE RECORD? (LAUGHTER)

A. I WAS EXPRESSING MY OWN OBSERVATION.

Q. I WANT TO USE THAT QUOTE THAT SAYS, "ON BACKGROUND WE ARE AN OPEN SOCIETY." (LAUGHTER)
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A. YOU CAN PUT THAT ON THE RECORD. (LAUGHTER)

Q. ON ISRAELI ARMS TO LEBANON, YOU KNOW, I ASKED A QUESTION ABOUT A WEEK AGO WHETHER OR NOT STATE WILL ACTUALLY INVESTIGATE --

A. YOU ASKED ME TWO DAYS AGO.

Q. YESTERDAY ALSO.

A. AND I TOLD YOU THAT I DID NOT HAVE ANYTHING MORE ON THAT UNTIL MR. ATHERTON AND SENATOR ABOUREZK MEET.

Q. DID YOU EVER FIND OUT WHERE AND WHEN THEY WERE GOING TO MEET?

A. I WAS GONE YESTERDAY, AND I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE SENATOR HAS RETURNED. BUT I KNOW IT IS MR. ATHERTON'S AND THE SENATOR'S INTENTION TO MEET JUST AS SOON AS THEY CAN SCHEDULE A MEETING AFTER THE SENATOR RETURNS.

Q. BUT STILL THE QUESTION REMAINS WHETHER OR NOT STATE
WILL ACTUALLY INVESTIGATE WHAT IS OVER THERE.

A. I AM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON THEIR CONVERSATION
UNTIL IT HAS TAKEN PLACE.

Q. WHICH SENATOR?

A. SENATOR ABOUREZK OF SOUTH DAKOTA. KISSINGER

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